



# Rooted<sup>IN</sup> Abundance

## Saint Mary's Annual Pledge Campaign 2024

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

- In gratitude for God's blessings, I/We pledge \$\_\_\_\_\_ to Saint Mary's for 2024.

- I/We will plan to pay this pledge: (*please check one line*)

\_\_\_\_\_ weekly \_\_\_\_\_ monthly \_\_\_\_\_ quarterly \_\_\_\_\_ annually

- *Ways to make pledge payments:*

\_\_\_\_\_ I/We will send or bring the pledge payment(s) to office or place in the Sunday offering plate or mail to Saint Mary's 43 Foreside Road, Falmouth, ME 04105.

\_\_\_\_\_ I/We would like to receive offering envelopes to pay this pledge by check or cash.

\_\_\_\_\_ I/We will set up direct payments to Saint Mary's church from my/our bank.

\_\_\_\_\_ I/We will make pledge payment(s) by giving electronically through Saint Mary's website (above).

\_\_\_\_\_ I/We wish to make pledge payments through my IRA and need instructions on the way to do this.

\_\_\_\_\_ I/We wish to use Venmo to make pledge payments to @Churchof-SaintMary.

- Information for making Annual Pledge payments with *stock*: Our transfer agent information has changed. Please contact Beth Shaw to get the new account information at [admin@smary.org](mailto:admin@smary.org) or 781-3366
- *I/We have considered a gift from my/our estate(s), and:*

☐ I/We have included Saint Mary's in our estate planning.

☐ I/We would like information on planned estate gifts to Saint Mary's.

\* \* \*

This Annual Pledge form is a prayer in action that you offer before God for the support of this parish family known as Saint Mary's, and for the needs of the wider world as well. We understand that circumstances may change after pledges are made. If you need to adjust your pledge, please contact our Parish Manager, Beth Shaw, in confidence.



# **The Episcopal Church of Saint Mary**

## ***Frequently Asked Questions About Stewardship***

### **What is stewardship?**

Stewardship is our personal response to God's generosity in the way we share the God-given resources of time, talent, and money. We recall that we are the stewards, not the owners, of creation. We have a responsibility to the present world and to future generations to share, conserve, and wisely use the resources entrusted to us. Stewardship encompasses all of our God-given resources. Just as we volunteer our time to help with Souper Supper, to serve on the Vestry or Altar Guild, our annual pledge drive is a major component of stewardship within our Saint Mary's parish community.

### **Why do we pledge?**

By making a pledge to Saint Mary's, you are indicating how much you plan to give to Saint Mary's during 2023. We can then add that amount to the other sources of revenue like fundraisers. The total amount of anticipated revenue is then allocated to cover the expenses of running a parish -- everything from salaries to utility costs and program-related expenses. Knowing in advance that you expect to contribute that amount allows us to plan accordingly. If you don't pledge and simply plan to donate weekly, we don't know that the money is coming week to week. And from time to time throughout the year, our loose offerings are donated to other needs like natural disaster response. So what you might wish to go to Saint Mary's is directed elsewhere.

You may have heard that a Christian ought to give in a way that is proportional and sacrificial. Proportional giving means to determine a percentage of your income that will be given for the work of God's kingdom. The traditional Biblical standard is a tithe or ten percent of your income. Many Christians understand tithing to include giving to their local congregation as well as to other ministries that serve the poor and needy.

Sacrificial giving means making a sacrifice of our gift to ministry, mission, and outreach. It means we choose to do without something to support the greater good. Sacrificial giving has also been called "prayer in action." Only you know the true sense of sacrificial giving as it applies to your life and circumstances.

### **What is a typical pledge?**

There is no typical pledge. It depends entirely on the circumstances and the faith of each household. Last year, pledges ranged from a few dollars per week to almost \$200 per week. Our average annual pledge in 2023 was \$2,158. Pledges are the most significant source of revenue by which we meet our expenses. Each year we hope to add new pledging households to our parish family, and we hope that our current pledgers will make strides toward giving away a complete tithe of their income.

### **What happens if we don't reach our pledge goal?**

We make every effort to set a goal that is attainable. The Vestry is the group responsible to steward our shared resources on behalf of our parish community, and the Vestry approves the Stewardship goal each year. If we are not successful in reaching this goal, the Vestry will discern the best path forward, which may include reducing expenses or drawing from reserves.

### **How do I pledge?**

A pledge form is on the other side of this page. On that form, you'll indicate how much and how and when you'll pledge. There are several options. Some people pay their pledges in a lump sum. Others send equal payments twice or four times during the year. We can provide pledge envelopes for you to send in a weekly contribution. We offer online options. You may pay online through our website or transfer directly from your bank. The online service charges a fee per transaction to the church not to the donor. Transferring from your bank is done at no cost to Saint Mary's. Once you've decided what to pledge, you may return the form by mail or scan it and email it to [admin@smary.org](mailto:admin@smary.org). All pledges are confidential and all the information you share is carefully protected.